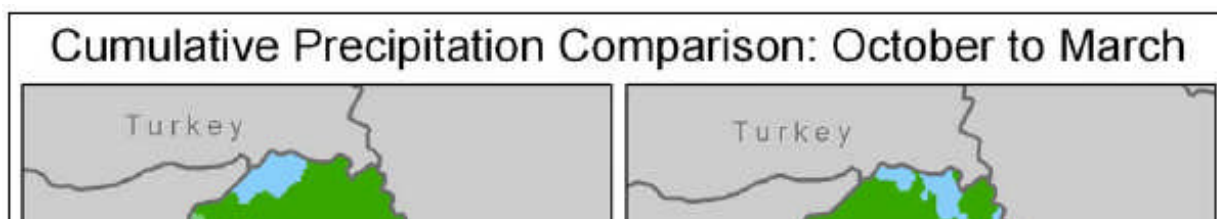




March Report – Week 4

March 27th, 2009

1. The current outlook for MY 2009/10 winter grain production (wheat and barley) in Iraq is only marginally better than last year's drought-affected crop, but overall production remains well-below normal. Less than adequate rainfall and/or irrigation supply during the current winter season has resulted in similarly poor or worse vegetative crop conditions than last year over large regional areas, particularly in the southern irrigated provinces. It appears that total irrigated grain area will decline in MY2009/10 and that poor yields relative to last year in some of the highest yielding irrigated crop areas will prevent a recovery in national winter grain production. Though winter grain production prospects are improved in some northern rainfed growing provinces this year, major producers such as Ninawa show little change from last year. It is anticipated that the production shortfalls in the south will be greater in size. Generally poor current crop conditions are expected to result in well below-normal national grain production.
2. Cumulative precipitation for MY 2009/10 is slightly higher than the previous year, but remains well below normal (Figure 1). A majority of cropland areas have experienced well below normal precipitation throughout the season, including the current month (Figure 2). With harvest closely approaching, the slight rainfall accumulation forecasted in the next few days will not be sufficient for offsetting the moisture deficit.
3. Regional NDVI time-series images reveal there is currently much less crop vigor and abundance than the previous benchmark year of MY 2006/07, when Iraq produced normal sized wheat crop of 2.5 million tons (Figure 3). As of March 6th 2009, MODIS NDVI remained especially low in the northwest and central provinces (Figure 4). A more detailed change analysis comparing the current MY 2009/10 with the previous benchmark years of MY 2005/06 and MY 2006/07 revealed significantly less vegetation abundance in the northern provinces of Ninawa, Arbil, and the central province of At Ta'min, which cumulatively produce up to 35% of total wheat and 49% of total barley.
4. AWiFS imagery collected in mid-March reveals little to no crop growth in the province of Ninawa, which typically produces 20% of total wheat and 32% of total barley. By mid-March, the field areas should be showing healthy crop emergence, but the imagery revealed that a majority of large rainfed field areas are completely barren. Arbil, which is the second largest barley producer, also showed similar barren fields (Figure 5).



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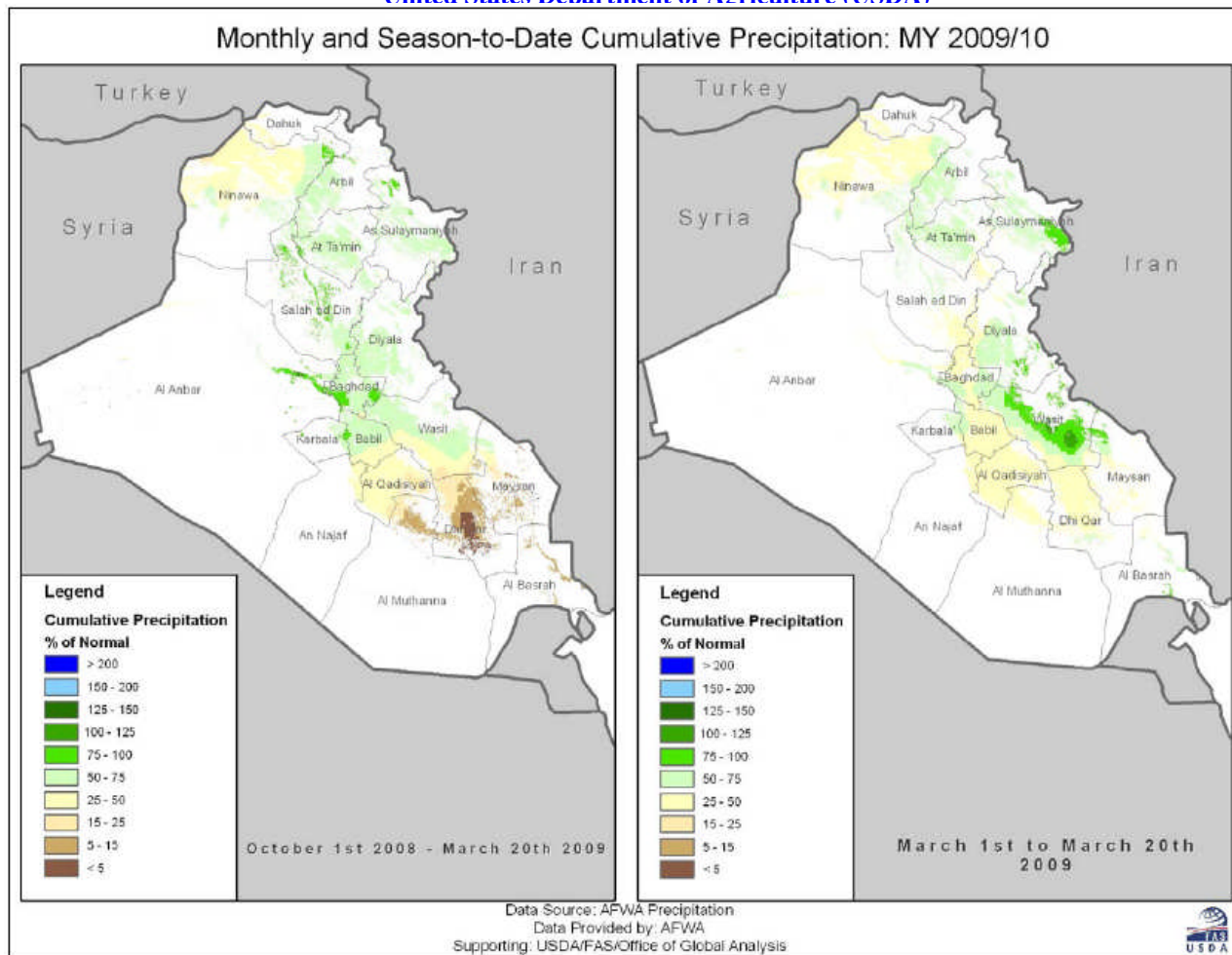


Figure 2: Percent of normal monthly and season-to-date precipitation.

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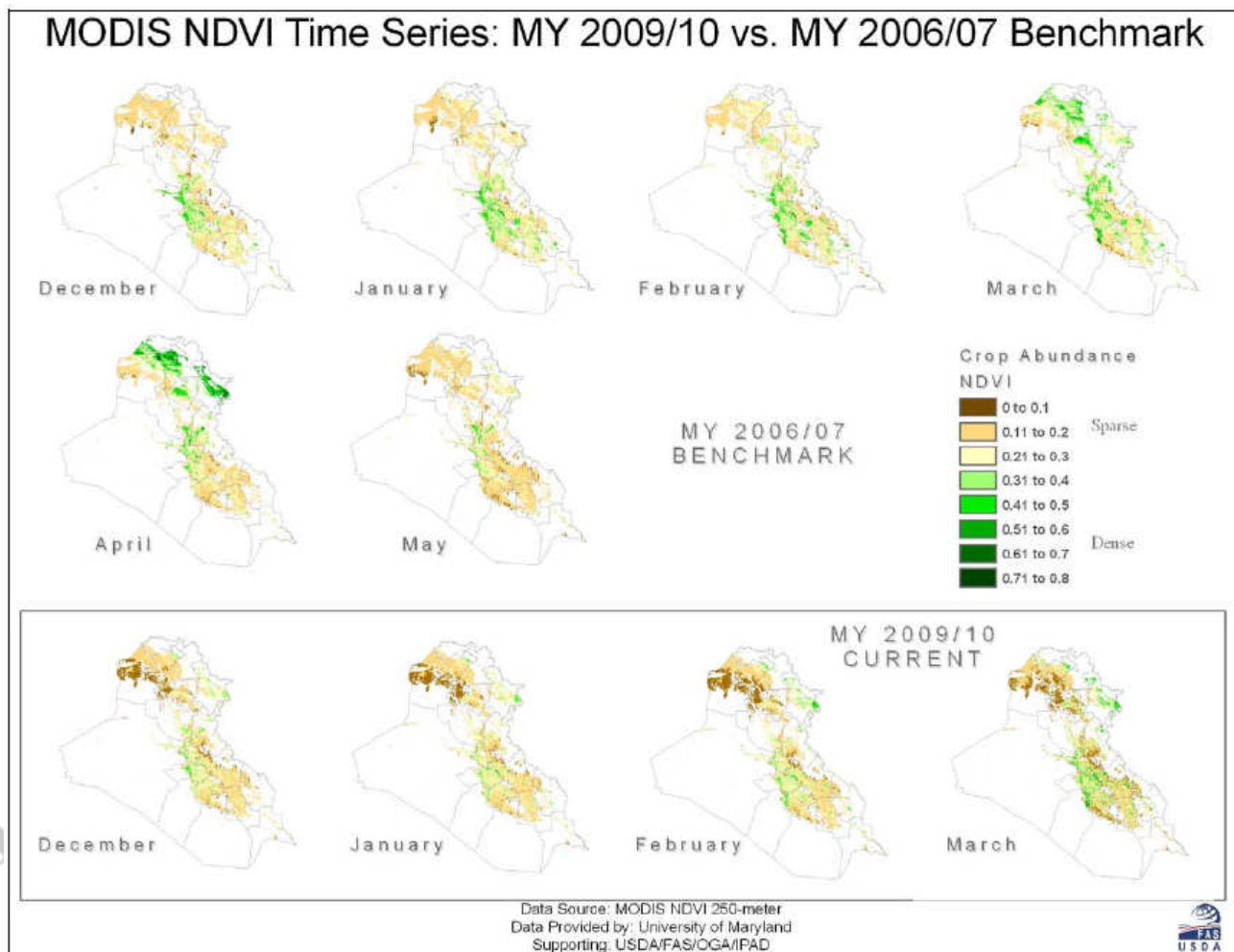


Figure 3: Regional perspective of seasonal NDVI: Current MY 2009/10 compared with benchmark year MY 2006/07.

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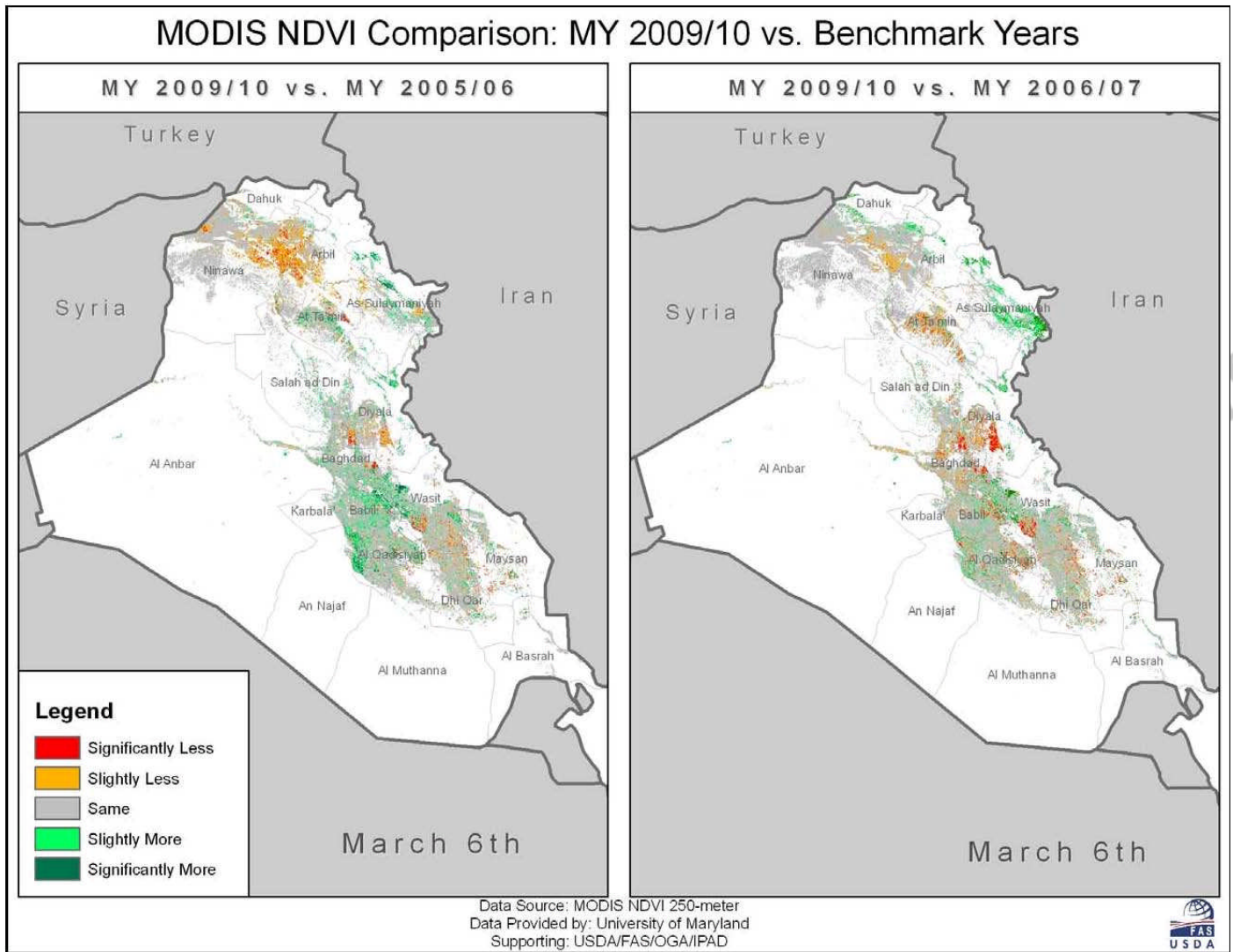


Figure 4: MODIS NDVI change analysis: Current MY 2009/10 compared with benchmark years MY 2005/06 and MY 2006/07.

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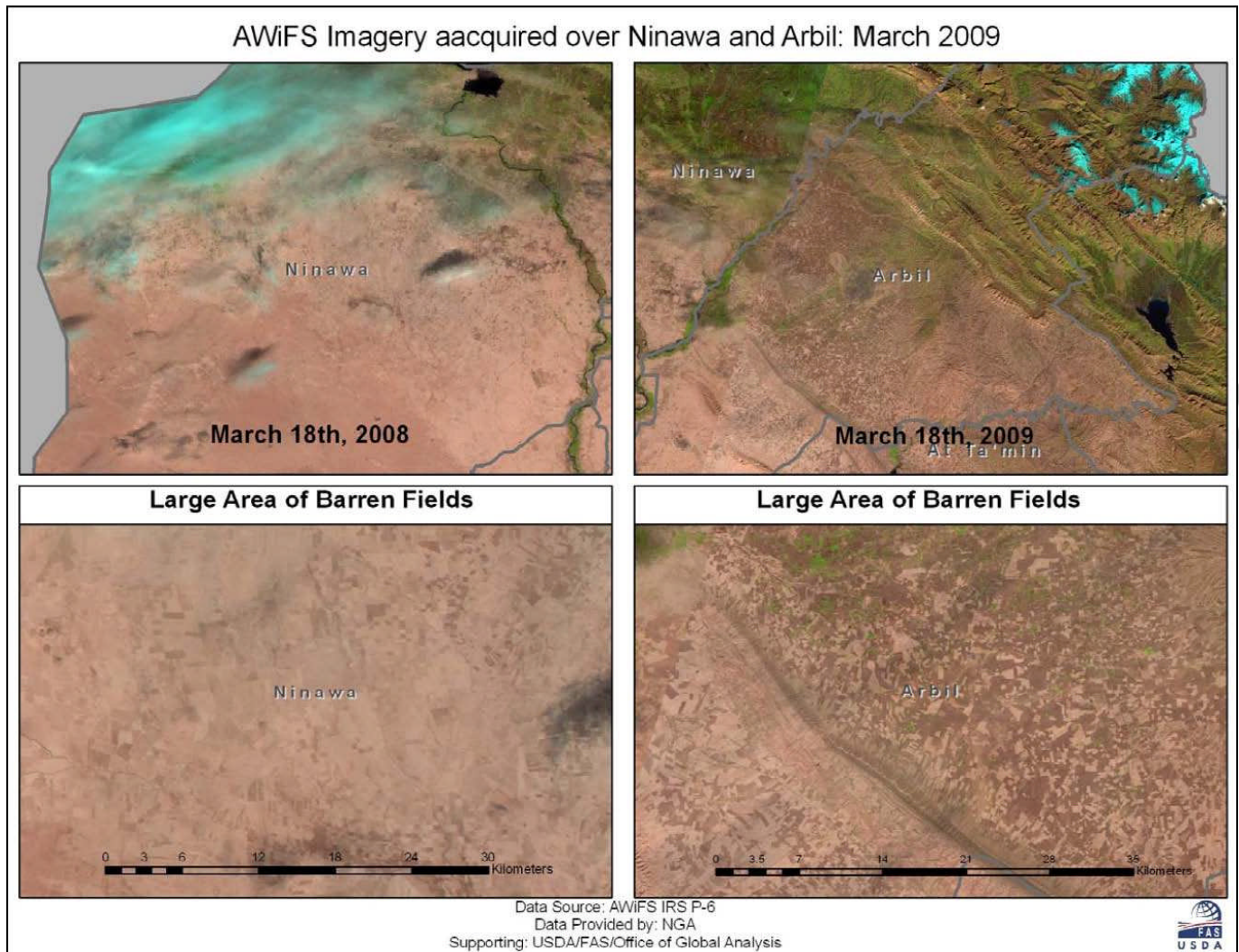
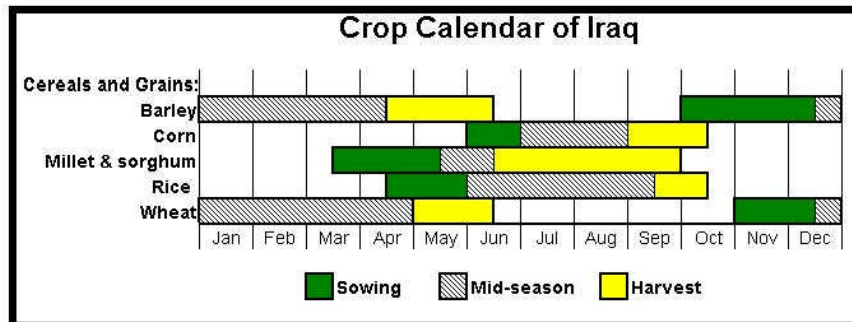
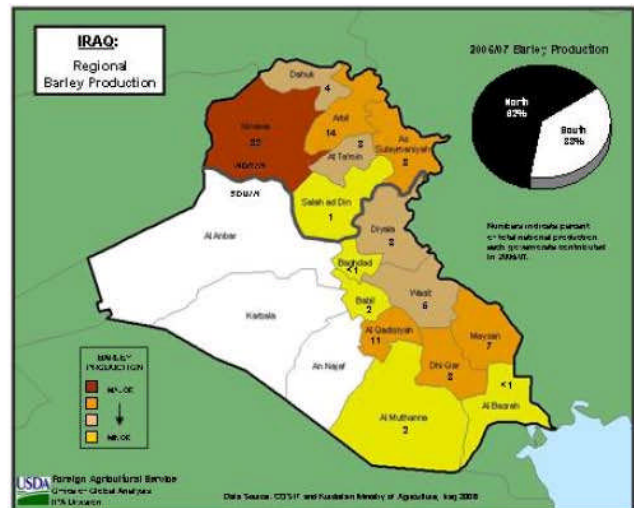
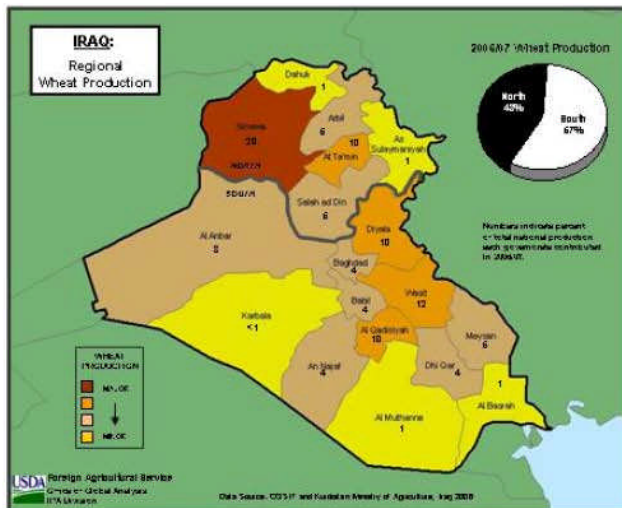


Figure 5: AWiFS imagery revealing large areas of barren field in major grain producing provinces of Ninawa and Arbil.

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APPENDIX



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	IRAQ: Regional Wheat Statistics (Mha; MMT)											
									Change from Last Year			
REGION	Province	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	5 Yr Avg	Actual	Percent		
NORTH	Arbil	Area	0.099	0.117	0.127	0.120	0.110	0.064	0.115	-0.046	-38.33%	
		Yield	0.944	0.624	1.056	0.667	0.325	0.358	0.726	0.033	4.97%	
		Prod	0.093	0.073	0.134	0.080	0.036	0.023	0.083	-0.013	-16.01%	
	Sulaymaniyah	Area	0.070	0.153	0.120	0.120	0.055	0.044	0.104	-0.011	-9.17%	
		Yield	0.357	0.244	0.272	0.250	0.125	0.220	0.255	0.094	37.78%	
		Prod	0.025	0.037	0.033	0.030	0.007	0.010	0.026	0.003	9.25%	
	Dahuk	Area	0.098	0.102	0.091	0.100	0.050	0.081	0.088	0.031	31.20%	
		Yield	0.325	0.188	0.349	0.300	0.138	0.225	0.271	0.087	29.10%	
		Prod	0.032	0.019	0.032	0.030	0.007	0.018	0.024	0.011	37.98%	
	Ninawa	Area	0.613	0.551	0.489	0.464	0.024	0.110	0.428	0.087	18.66%	
		Yield	0.872	0.687	1.024	0.691	0.681	0.687	0.818	0.006	0.89%	
		Prod	0.535	0.378	0.501	0.320	0.016	0.076	0.350	0.060	18.59%	
	At Ta'min	Area	0.160	0.195	0.141	0.205	0.120	0.084	0.164	-0.036	-17.39%	
		Yield	1.478	1.758	1.704	1.408	1.393	1.070	1.554	-0.323	-22.98%	
		Prod	0.237	0.343	0.241	0.289	0.167	0.090	0.255	-0.077	-26.61%	
	Salah ad Din	Area	0.107	0.110	0.108	0.107	0.070	0.115	0.100	0.045	42.27%	
		Yield	0.828	1.036	1.137	1.385	0.915	1.100	1.071	0.185	13.33%	
		Prod	0.088	0.114	0.123	0.148	0.064	0.127	0.108	0.063	42.23%	
	SOUTH	Diyala	Area	0.087	0.109	0.113	0.106	0.085	0.071	0.100	-0.014	-13.09%
			Yield	1.527	2.031	2.277	2.194	1.757	1.796	1.987	0.039	1.77%
			Prod	0.134	0.220	0.258	0.233	0.149	0.128	0.199	-0.022	-9.30%
		Wasit	Area	0.148	0.166	0.157	0.164	0.159	0.160	0.159	0.001	0.67%
			Yield	1.903	2.467	1.833	1.900	1.289	1.393	1.884	0.104	5.46%
			Prod	0.282	0.411	0.288	0.312	0.205	0.223	0.300	0.018	5.77%
Al Qadisiyah		Area	0.093	0.094	0.095	0.092	0.080	0.124	0.091	0.044	47.51%	
		Yield	1.567	2.213	2.514	2.580	1.784	1.976	2.142	0.192	7.44%	
		Prod	0.146	0.209	0.238	0.238	0.143	0.245	0.195	0.102	42.83%	
Babil		Area	0.049	0.068	0.068	0.065	0.070	0.073	0.064	0.003	3.98%	
		Yield	1.042	1.379	1.362	1.529	1.459	1.499	1.371	0.040	2.63%	
		Prod	0.051	0.093	0.093	0.100	0.103	0.109	0.088	0.007	6.73%	
An Najaf		Area	0.046	0.048	0.045	0.050	0.047	0.040	0.047	-0.007	-13.90%	
		Yield	1.180	1.641	2.359	2.725	1.819	2.310	1.954	0.491	18.03%	
		Prod	0.054	0.078	0.107	0.135	0.085	0.092	0.092	0.007	5.25%	
Baghdad		Area	0.043	0.060	0.059	0.048	0.062	0.054	0.055	-0.008	-15.71%	
		Yield	1.462	1.617	1.598	1.667	1.563	1.599	1.585	0.036	2.15%	
		Prod	0.063	0.097	0.095	0.081	0.096	0.086	0.086	-0.010	-12.33%	
Al Anbar		Area	0.043	0.035	0.056	0.057	0.043	0.053	0.047	0.010	17.66%	
		Yield	1.220	1.098	1.380	1.408	1.335	1.216	1.307	-0.119	-8.45%	
		Prod	0.053	0.038	0.077	0.080	0.057	0.064	0.061	0.007	8.85%	
Karbala		Area	0.006	0.007	0.004	0.002	0.002	0.004	0.004	0.002	77.96%	
		Yield	1.037	0.927	1.258	1.976	1.773	1.677	1.214	-0.096	-4.85%	
		Prod	0.006	0.007	0.005	0.005	0.004	0.007	0.005	0.003	61.55%	
Maysan		Area	0.077	0.088	0.087	0.094	0.082	0.069	0.086	-0.013	-14.08%	
		Yield	1.270	1.681	1.438	1.308	0.807	0.922	1.308	0.115	8.79%	
		Prod	0.098	0.148	0.125	0.124	0.066	0.064	0.112	-0.003	-2.26%	
Dhi Qar		Area	0.032	0.046	0.061	0.059	0.049	0.044	0.049	-0.005	-7.59%	
		Yield	1.574	1.402	1.721	1.704	1.557	1.449	1.606	-0.108	-6.32%	
		Prod	0.050	0.064	0.105	0.101	0.076	0.064	0.079	-0.012	-11.62%	
Al Muthanna		Area	0.018	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.009	0.010	0.013	0.001	9.78%	
		Yield	1.076	1.081	1.225	1.255	0.798	0.982	1.098	0.184	14.68%	
		Prod	0.020	0.013	0.015	0.014	0.007	0.010	0.014	0.003	19.28%	
Al Basrah		Area	0.016	0.014	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.016	-0.001	-5.34%	
		Yield	0.959	1.026	0.956	1.328	0.988	1.111	1.053	0.123	9.25%	
		Prod	0.015	0.014	0.016	0.022	0.017	0.018	0.017	0.001	4.81%	
Total		Area	1.807	1.975	1.852	1.883	1.133	1.216	1.730	0.084	4.44%	
		Yield	1.097	1.194	1.342	1.244	1.152	1.194	1.211	0.043	3.42%	
		Prod	1.983	2.358	2.485	2.343	1.304	1.453	2.094	0.148	6.33%	

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	IRAQ: Regional Barley Statistics (Mha; MMT)										
									Change from Last Year		
REGION	Province	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	5 Yr Avg	Actual	Percent	
NORTH	Arbil	Area	0.0862	0.2707	0.2425	0.2500	0.0100	0.0670	0.1719	0.0570	22.80%
		Yield	0.9360	0.5040	0.7000	0.5600	0.3900	0.4600	0.6176	0.0700	12.50%
		Prod	0.0806	0.1364	0.1698	0.1400	0.0039	0.0308	0.1062	0.0269	19.23%
	Sulaymaniyah	Area	0.0522	0.1247	0.1082	0.1100	0.0400	0.1180	0.0870	0.0780	70.91%
		Yield	1.3760	0.9640	0.9640	0.7273	0.3475	0.9932	0.8969	0.6457	88.78%
		Prod	0.0718	0.1202	0.1043	0.0800	0.0139	0.1172	0.0780	0.1033	129.12%
	Dahuk	Area	0.0274	0.0365	0.0407	0.0500	0.0200	0.0291	0.0349	0.0091	18.20%
		Yield	1.1560	0.5040	1.2680	0.8000	0.4000	0.7889	0.8573	0.3889	48.61%
		Prod	0.0317	0.0184	0.0517	0.0400	0.0080	0.0230	0.0300	0.0150	37.39%
	Ninawa	Area	0.5291	0.6140	0.5946	0.6150	0.0006	0.0012	0.4707	0.0006	0.10%
		Yield	0.7088	0.4111	0.6748	0.5285	0.6667	0.6777	0.5754	0.0110	2.09%
		Prod	0.3750	0.2524	0.4012	0.3250	0.0004	0.0008	0.2708	0.0004	0.13%
	At Ta'min	Area	0.0104	0.0231	0.0289	0.0300	0.0118	0.0080	0.0208	-0.0038	-12.67%
		Yield	0.8647	1.0216	1.1194	1.0000	1.3390	0.9390	1.0627	-0.4000	-40.00%
		Prod	0.0090	0.0236	0.0323	0.0300	0.0158	0.0075	0.0221	-0.0083	-27.63%
	Salah ad Din	Area	0.0390	0.0284	0.0148	0.0150	0.0072	0.0110	0.0209	0.0038	25.33%
		Yield	0.3583	0.2872	0.7274	0.3333	0.7917	0.7729	0.4176	-0.0188	-5.63%
		Prod	0.0140	0.0082	0.0108	0.0050	0.0057	0.0085	0.0087	0.0028	56.04%
SOUTH	Diyala	Area	0.0381	0.0370	0.0353	0.0350	0.0265	0.0200	0.0344	-0.0065	-18.57%
		Yield	0.7312	1.1630	1.1494	1.1429	0.8830	0.7390	1.0173	-0.1440	-12.60%
		Prod	0.0278	0.0431	0.0405	0.0400	0.0234	0.0148	0.0350	-0.0086	-21.55%
	Wasit	Area	0.0555	0.0689	0.0632	0.0600	0.0693	0.0320	0.0634	-0.0373	-62.17%
		Yield	1.0454	1.0140	1.0262	1.0833	0.8095	0.8822	0.9903	0.0727	6.71%
		Prod	0.0580	0.0699	0.0649	0.0650	0.0561	0.0282	0.0628	-0.0279	-42.88%
	Al Qadisiyah	Area	0.0781	0.0772	0.0797	0.0800	0.0683	0.0760	0.0767	0.0077	9.63%
		Yield	1.3589	1.5688	1.7133	1.6875	1.1698	1.5210	1.5098	0.3512	20.81%
		Prod	0.1061	0.1211	0.1366	0.1350	0.0799	0.1156	0.1157	0.0357	26.44%
	Babil	Area	0.0209	0.0199	0.0237	0.0250	0.0236	0.0180	0.0226	-0.0056	-22.40%
		Yield	0.7652	0.9089	0.8750	0.8000	0.8390	0.8321	0.8366	-0.0069	-0.86%
		Prod	0.0160	0.0181	0.0207	0.0200	0.0198	0.0150	0.0189	-0.0048	-24.11%
	An Najaf	Area	0.0018	0.0019	0.0016	0.0020	0.0012	0.0010	0.0017	-0.0002	-10.00%
		Yield	0.7778	1.0315	1.0192	1.0000	1.1667	1.0992	0.9870	-0.0675	-6.75%
		Prod	0.0014	0.0020	0.0016	0.0020	0.0014	0.0011	0.0017	-0.0003	-15.04%
	Baghdad	Area	0.0051	0.0077	0.0060	0.0050	0.0261	0.0110	0.0100	-0.0151	-302.00%
		Yield	1.0557	1.0905	0.9403	1.0000	1.1916	0.9210	1.1127	-0.2706	-27.06%
		Prod	0.0054	0.0084	0.0056	0.0050	0.0311	0.0101	0.0111	-0.0210	-419.38%
	Al Anbar	Area	0.0029	0.0023	0.0034	0.0030	0.0032	0.0023	0.0030	-0.0009	-30.00%
		Yield	0.7980	0.7198	0.7001	0.6667	0.6250	0.6723	0.6993	0.0473	7.10%
		Prod	0.0023	0.0017	0.0024	0.0020	0.0020	0.0015	0.0021	-0.0005	-22.69%
	Karbala	Area	0.0021	0.0025	0.0026	0.0030	0.0023	0.0021	0.0025	-0.0002	-6.67%
		Yield	0.9876	1.0012	0.9242	0.6667	1.1739	0.8923	0.9341	-0.2816	-42.24%
		Prod	0.0021	0.0025	0.0024	0.0020	0.0027	0.0019	0.0023	-0.0008	-41.31%
	Maysan	Area	0.0664	0.0706	0.0647	0.0650	0.0763	0.0400	0.0686	-0.0363	-55.85%
		Yield	0.8258	1.2879	1.2493	1.2308	0.5793	0.8281	1.0227	0.2488	20.22%
		Prod	0.0548	0.0909	0.0808	0.0800	0.0442	0.0331	0.0701	-0.0111	-13.85%
	Dhi Qar	Area	0.0643	0.0816	0.0748	0.0750	0.0859	0.0510	0.0763	-0.0349	-46.53%
		Yield	1.5073	1.1041	1.2703	1.2533	1.2165	1.1890	1.2593	-0.0275	-2.20%
		Prod	0.0970	0.0901	0.0951	0.0940	0.1045	0.0606	0.0961	-0.0439	-46.66%
	Al Muthanna	Area	0.0376	0.0231	0.0273	0.0250	0.0227	0.0140	0.0271	-0.0087	-34.80%
		Yield	0.8059	0.7840	0.7140	0.8000	0.5639	0.6829	0.7421	0.1190	14.88%
		Prod	0.0303	0.0181	0.0195	0.0200	0.0128	0.0096	0.0201	-0.0032	-16.20%
	Al Basrah	Area	0.0060	0.0050	0.0055	0.0050	0.0040	0.0050	0.0051	0.0010	20.00%
		Yield	1.0291	0.8768	0.8913	1.0000	1.2500	0.9125	0.9984	-0.3375	-33.75%
		Prod	0.0062	0.0044	0.0049	0.0050	0.0050	0.0046	0.0051	-0.0004	-8.75%
	Total	Area	1.1230	1.4952	1.4175	1.4530	0.4990	0.5067	1.1976	0.0077	0.53%
		Yield	0.8811	0.6885	0.8784	0.7502	0.8629	0.9550	0.9090	0.0921	12.28%
		Prod	0.9895	1.0295	1.2451	1.0900	0.4306	0.4839	1.0885	0.0533	4.89%

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